





U.S. Application No. 08/888,077 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,020,143) which is incorporated by reference in the present application. Therefore it is believed that claim 7 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

New claim 24 recites a mutant PS2 protein comprising at least one mutation relative to a normal PS2 protein, wherein the normal PS2 protein has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2. Applicants' submit that the term "mutant PS2 protein" is adequately describes the claimed invention and that one of ordinary skill in the art could readily envision the PS2 proteins that fall within the scope of the claim. Thus, claim 24 clearly sets forth the applicants invention with clarity and precision such that one of ordinary skill in the art is readily appraised of the full scope of the claimed invention. Therefore, applicants' submit that new claim 24 and dependent claims 25 through 30 satisfy the requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and respectfully request that they be passed to issuance.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 9 as indefinite, maintaining that the acronym hNPRAP is not defined in the specification. Claim 9 has been amended, omitting reference to the acronym hNPRAP and adding the term "human Neural Plakophilin Related Armadillo Protein." It was well known in the art at the time the application was filed that hNPRAP is the acronym for human Neural Plakophilin Related Armadillo Protein. The Examiner is directed to Paffenhoiz, R. and Franke, W. (1997) *Differentiation* 61:293-304, submitted previously, as evidence of the well known meaning of the acronym hNPRAP in the art. The amendment of claim 9 is believed to address and overcome the Examiner's rejection and therefore applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 17 as indefinite for lack of antecedent basis. The Examiner maintains that the phrase "said control" lacks antecedent basis in claim 7 as the control of claim 7 refers to a culture of cells that express armadillo protein and a mutant presenilin protein without a test substance. Without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's rejection, claim 17 has been amended to recite the additional step of comparing the levels of nuclear armadillo protein

to a second control comprising cells expressing a wild-type presenilin and said armadillo protein. Applicant's submit that the present amendment obviates the present rejection and therefore respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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